UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/328
30 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (UNAVEM III)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of Security Council resolution 1045 (1996) of 8 February 1996, in which the Council, inter alia, requested me to report by 1 May 1996 on the progress made by the Government of Angola and the União Nacional para a Indepêndencia Total de Angola (UNITA) in taking concrete steps towards meeting the goals and timetable agreed between them and to keep the Council informed of events on the ground. The report covers the main developments since my last report dated 4 April (S/1996/248 and Add.1) and reflects events up to 30 April 1996.

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. During the period under review, my Special Representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, in cooperation with the representatives of the three observer States (Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America) continued to interact closely with both the Government and UNITA. He also travelled to Andulo, Bié province, for talks with the leader of UNITA, Mr. Jonas Savimbi. All those concerned with the situation in Angola, including some visiting foreign dignitaries, continued to impress upon the parties the need to take expeditious and concrete steps to accelerate the much-delayed implementation of the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex).

3. The Joint Commission, the principal body charged with implementation, continued to hold regular and extraordinary sessions to review various aspects of the peace process, in particular the pressing issues of quartering, the completion of the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and demining. The Commission adopted a new timetable of tasks to be accomplished by the parties during the month of April. Some of these, however, remain to be completed.

4. Outside the framework of the Joint Commission, dialogue between the Government and UNITA continued through contacts between high-level delegations. Military issues were discussed both bilaterally and within the context of the Armed Conflict Prevention Group established under the chairmanship of the United

Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III). Since my last report, the major positive development was the withdrawal of the FAA to their nearest barracks in some provinces. However, progress in the crucial area of the quartering of UNITA troops has remained extremely slow and the talks on important military questions have not been concluded (see para. 9 below). As a result of these delays, the Government announced on 23 April that it was considering suspending its participation in the Joint Commission. During his meeting with Mr. Savimbi at Andulo on 25 April, my Special Representative received assurances yet again that UNITA remained committed to the peace process and that it would accelerate the pace of the quartering of its troops. The value of these new assurances remains to be determined.

5. On 3 April 1996, a UNAVEM III vehicle was ambushed near Catengue, Benguela province, by unidentified armed assailants, resulting in the death of two military observers, the wounding of a third, and the death of a representative of the non-governmental organization OXFAM. I strongly condemned this heinous attack, as did both the Government and UNITA. The former assured my Special Representative that a thorough investigation would be conducted. This incident once again underscored the need to provide adequate security for all United Nations and other international personnel. I urge the Government to conduct its investigation promptly. Armed assaults against expatriate personnel, including representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and firings at or around UNAVEM III sites are becoming almost daily occurrences. Strong measures are needed to put an end to this alarming spread of lawlessness.

6. There has still been no progress toward the establishment of an independent United Nations radio, an issue on which the Security Council has pronounced itself on numerous occasions, most recently in the statement made by its President on 24 April 1996 (S/PRST/1996/19). Once again, I urge the Government to resolve this matter without delay.

III. MILITARY ASPECTS

A. Status of UNAVEM III and of the cease-fire

7. With the arrival of the remainder of the Zambian infantry unit in early April, the deployment of UNAVEM III was completed. As of 25 April 1996, the combined strength of the military and police components of the mission stood at 7,200 (see annex). Their presence in 6 regional Headquarters and in almost 70 sites throughout the country continues to be an important factor in stabilizing and improving the military environment in Angola.

8. During the month of April, the military situation in most of the provinces remained calm, with no offensives or other significant military actions by either party. The level of cease-fire violations has diminished, demonstrating the effectiveness of the present conflict control mechanisms that operate under the auspices of UNAVEM III. Recently small-scale advances by FAA troops were registered in some areas. They are being investigated by UNAVEM III. There was also a further increase in ambushes of civilians in Benguela, Huíla and Malange provinces, cattle rustling and minor skirmishes in Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul provinces, as well as numerous acts of banditry, which, on many occasions, were

perpetrated by persons wearing military and police uniforms. In some parts of the country, checkpoints continue to inhibit the freedom of movement of the civilian population.

B. Completion of the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces

9. The negotiations on the integration of UNITA troops into FAA continued at a sluggish pace and agreement on the crucial issues involved, which affect many other aspects of the peace process, remained elusive. It should be recalled that these talks were to be concluded immediately after the signing of the Lusaka Protocol in November 1994, but much time has been lost by frequent breaks in the negotiations. On 11 April 1996, the leadership of FAA stated that important understandings had been reached, including on creation of a "fourth branch" of the service that would perform functions in support of rehabilitation of the national infrastructure. But UNITA denied this and asserted that the main obstacles to a final agreement were the lack of adequate descriptions of the posts to be filled by UNITA generals and the need to review the amnesty law. These two questions must be expeditiously resolved since it is imperative that the induction of UNITA troops into FAA and the demobilization of those willing to be discharged should begin in the coming weeks.

C. Quartering of UNITA troops

10. Despite logistical difficulties, UNAVEM III, with the assistance of United Nations agencies and NGOs, prepared and formally opened 3 additional quartering areas at Andulo, Catala and Chicuma, bringing the total to 10. Construction of two more is near completion, while preliminary work commenced on two others. The location of the last site is still under discussion.

11. Despite the efforts of the United Nations, very little progress has been recorded. As of 25 April 1996, 23,376 UNITA soldiers had been registered in 9 areas while 17,598 weapons and only 980 kilogrammes of ammunition had been handed over. This represents only a marginal increase over the 18,591 UNITA troops quartered and 15,169 weapons handed over by 29 March. UNITA gave various explanations for these delays but few of them could be substantiated. In some instances, local UNITA commanders claimed that they had not received orders from headquarters in Bailundo to proceed to the quartering areas.

12. Meanwhile, desertions from quartering sites were reported to number about 2,100, but the actual figure is probably higher, since, on several occasions UNITA commanders have prevented UNAVEM III personnel from conducting roll calls. UNITA representatives claimed that desertions were due to the harsh living conditions in the camps but there is reason to believe that some of them were covertly sanctioned by commanding officers and that others involved persons who had been forcibly recruited by UNITA for quartering. The age of some UNITA troops and the condition of weapons surrendered continue to be a major concern. In the meantime, 20,183 family members and/or dependants of troops have settled in satellite camps and are being given assistance by the international community.

13. The Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and NGOs, has initiated humanitarian assistance programmes in the recently opened quartering areas of Ngove, N'Tuco and Quibala and is expected to provide such assistance to five additional areas. Accompanied by my Special Representative, members of the Joint Commission continued to pay regular visits to quartering sites. Complaints by UNITA, many of which have proven to be largely unfounded, have been carefully investigated and followed up. The Commission, of which UNITA is a member, has concluded that the assistance being provided to the soldiers in the quartering areas is generally adequate. Medical examinations are administered at all quartering areas and supplemental health care is provided in the family camps.

14. It is disturbing, therefore, that UNITA's mass media continue to disseminate allegations about sub-standard conditions in the quartering areas, accusing the Coordination Unit of "lack of goodwill". In this connection, it should be noted that most of the UNITA elements and their dependants arrive at the quartering areas in poor health. Between 5 February and 25 March 1996, over 25,000 different pathologies were diagnosed in the first four quartering areas. Many of these were treated.

15. The soldiers who arrived late last year at the first quartering areas in Vila Nova and Londiumbali have now been quartered there for five months, which is the maximum period originally planned. Not only is their prolonged stay rapidly depleting United Nations resources (those allocated for the first assembly areas will be almost exhausted in May) but discipline in some camps has started to deteriorate. These factors make it imperative to begin without delay the gradual incorporation of UNITA troops into FAA and the demobilization of those who are willing to be discharged; UNAVEM III is actively pursuing these issues with the parties.

D. Road rehabilitation and demining

16. With the assistance of United Nations agencies and international NGOs, additional progress has been made in securing overland access to several parts of the country. The severity of mine pollution in the country warrants special public action by the Angolan leaders to underscore the need to destroy stockpiles of landmines. In Kuando Kubango province, the rehabilitation of the Masseka bridge and completion of mine verification made it possible to open the vital Menongue-Longa-Cuito Cuanavale road which had been closed to traffic for many years. But, on the strategically important Malange-Saurimo route, continuing restrictions imposed by UNITA prevented a United Nations-contracted demining company and a UNAVEM III military bridging unit from proceeding with operations as planned. As a result, the hardship of the local population was prolonged and the international community, and UNAVEM III in particular, lost tens of thousands of dollars. Demining and road rehabilitation of the Kuito-Andulo (Bié province) and Tomboco-M'Banza Congo (Zaire province) routes have also been unjustifiably delayed because of UNITA's alleged security concerns. As of 25 April, UNAVEM III engineering units had demined and repaired a total of 4,030 kilometres of road, while the demining contractor cleared 1,798 kilometres of road.

17. The Joint Commission considered various demining issues at its special session, identifying as the main problems the parties' lack of political will to speed up demining, the shortage of equipment and the absence of a national demining plan. In the meantime, graduates of the first two demining courses run by the United Nations Central Mine Action Training School are expected to begin operations within two weeks and another course has begun. Specialized international NGOs are stepping up surveys, mine awareness and demining activities. It is essential that the restrictions still imposed by the parties be lifted immediately and that all available information on minefields be shared with the United Nations.

IV. POLICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS

18. The Civilian Police component of UNAVEM III (CIVPOL), deployed at 35 locations, continued to monitor the neutrality of the Angolan National Police (ANP), free circulation of people and goods, respect for human rights, the maintenance of law and order and security arrangements for UNITA leaders. It also verified the quartering of the rapid reaction police in Benguela, Huambo, Luanda, Luena, Lubango, Uíge and, most recently, in Malange. As of 25 April, 3,605 of the declared strength of 3,745 personnel had been quartered in these 7 locations. Barracking of those in Saurimo will commence on 30 April, with those in Cabinda following in May. Efforts are under way to provide equipment for several remote quartering locations for the rapid reaction police from the stock available at the United Nations logistic base at Brindisi and through additional procurement by UNAVEM III.

19. In spite of several reminders from UNAVEM III, the parties have still not reached an agreement on the security of UNITA leaders. Although the Government again reiterated its willingness to begin training UNITA elements to serve as bodyguards and incorporate them into ANP, UNITA has refused for several months to provide such personnel. Nor has progress been achieved on the disarmament of civilians. However, the Joint Commission has formed a working group to review UNAVEM III proposals, in conjunction with those to be presented by the Government. The general deterioration of law and order underlines the need to begin this process urgently. In addition, the parties have yet to agree on the extension of State administration and the deployment of police to areas recently vacated by UNITA and FAA forces.

20. UNAVEM III continued various activities to foster greater awareness of, and respect for, human rights. Both parties, in particular the Government, must accept responsibility for preventing and investigating incidents of human rights abuse and for bringing perpetrators to justice. The Lusaka Protocol offers Angola a unique opportunity to create a new environment in this regard. A second regional human rights seminar organized by the Ministry of Justice and UNAVEM III was held on 11 April in Lubango, following which it was decided that human rights committees would be established in the provinces of Cunene, Huíla and Namibe. However, more efforts are needed and I am instructing my Special Representative to give priority to this area of activity. More resources are also required to re-establish the judicial system and to conduct human rights education campaigns. I accordingly appeal to the international community to provide the necessary resources. I am pleased to announce that six human rights

experts financed by the European Union are expected to arrive in Angola to work with UNAVEM III.

V. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

21. Under the coordination of the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit, humanitarian organizations continued to provide assistance to displaced and other war-affected people. Small-scale spontaneous return movements of displaced persons have continued, and humanitarian organizations have begun to assist in their transportation to, and resettlement in, the provinces of Benguela, Huambo and Malange. Similar efforts are scheduled to begin soon in Bengo, Huíla and Moxico provinces.

22. Preliminary survey results reveal that most internally displaced persons would be ready to return if they received security assurances and humanitarian assistance until the first harvest after their return. The return and reintegration of such populations is an important factor in the political stabilization of the country and improvement of the food supply. With the rainy season now coming to an end, displaced persons need to return urgently to their communities; the support of the Government and UNITA in this exercise is vital.

23. UNAVEM III military contingents, on a voluntary basis, are undertaking a number of humanitarian projects, such as the running of temporary clinics and primary schools. Vocational training schools have also been opened by some contingents to prepare young men to earn a livelihood.

24. On 16 April 1996, my Special Representative, together with the Angolan Minister for Social Assistance, presented to the donor community in Luanda the United Nations 1996 updated appeal for Angola, which was being launched simultaneously in New York and Geneva. This document provides an update of the humanitarian assistance requirements in 1996 for 2.7 million conflict-affected and internally displaced people, 200,000 returning refugees, 100,000 former soldiers and other ex-combatants, and up to 400,000 of their dependants. The total value of humanitarian assistance required during 1996 is estimated at US$ 187 million, including US$ 125 million for emergency relief assistance, US$ 57 million for demobilization and reintegration activities, and US$ 5 million for demining projects.

VI. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

25. The community rehabilitation programme was officially launched on 25 March 1996 by the Angolan Prime Minister, Mr. Marcolino Moco. This meeting allowed for a fruitful exchange with the provincial governors on the institutional mechanism for implementing and coordinating the programme and also on their expected role in supporting and guiding the provincial programme management units. A government decree establishing the central and provincial coordination committees, as well as the technical support units at central and provincial levels, was officially adopted on 19 March. The nomination of the national coordinator represents an important step in facilitating the implementation of this programme.

26. The informal meeting of donors, convened on 27 March 1996 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and attended by my Special Representative, provided a useful forum for an exchange of views among donors. While it was felt that such consultations should be organized on a regular basis, some representatives of the donor community called for firm government commitment to adopt an adequate macro-economic framework before donors proceeded with the implementation of their pledges. Discussions on modalities for economic reform continued with the Government. In this context, a World Bank mission visited the country in March and is to be followed by an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission towards the end of April 1996.

27. Following a meeting I had last year with the Managing Director of IMF and the President of the World Bank, a series of meetings has been held between senior Headquarters officials of those two institutions and of the Secretariat, with the participation of UNDP, to ensure better coordination of the efforts of the wider United Nations system to build peace in Angola. These meetings produced a number of ideas that will be useful in other countries that, like Angola, find themselves in special situations requiring a wide-ranging and well-coordinated response by the international community.

28. UNDP is pursuing the implementation of the contingency plan for operationalization of the counselling and referral services linked to a quick impact project fund for the reintegration of demobilized soldiers. Discussion of the programme with provincial authorities and NGOs and identification of premises have been completed, and international staff have been selected. UNDP is seeking donor contributions to ensure that at least some counselling and referral services are established and funds made available for quick impact projects before demobilization commences.

VII. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

29. By its resolution 50/209 of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly authorized me to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed US$ 28,229,100 gross for the maintenance of UNAVEM III from 9 February to 30 June 1996, subject to the extension of the Mission's mandate by the Security Council.

30. My proposed budget for the maintenance of the Mission beyond 1 July 1996 (A/50/651/Add.3) has been submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its resumed session. The cost of maintaining UNAVEM III at its currently authorized strength is estimated at US$ 27,928,300 gross (US$ 27,352,500 net) per month beginning 1 July 1996. Therefore, should the Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission as recommended in paragraph 36 below, the cost of maintaining UNAVEM III during the extension period will be within the monthly rate indicated in the preceding paragraph.

31. As at 23 April 1996, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNAVEM special account for the period since the inception of the Mission to 30 April 1996 amounted to US$ 74.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations as at 23 April 1996 was US$ 1,785.4 million.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS

32. Since my last report on Angola, progress in implementing the Lusaka Protocol has been disappointingly slow and many of the tasks which the parties themselves agreed to carry out in April remain unfulfilled. The Government and UNITA have, it is true, maintained a dialogue, the military situation in the country has remained stable and the partial barracking of FAA and the rapid reaction police are positive developments. But the overall achievements fall well short of what the Security Council had been led to expect.

33. In particular, the quartering of UNITA troops has virtually stalled and paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1045 (1996) remains largely unfulfilled, although there has been an increased flow of UNITA troops into the quartering areas in the last few days of April. Nevertheless the repeated failure of the UNITA leadership to honour its commitments has reinforced the doubts about its good faith to which I referred in my report to the Council dated 6 March 1996 (S/1996/171). While the international community has so far given UNITA the benefit of the doubt in view of the initial difficulties in the quartering process, this further procrastination can not be justified and, if continued, could bring about the collapse of the whole peace process, with consequent interruption of the international aid Angola requires for reconstruction, rehabilitation and demining.

34. Another cause of acute concern is the delays in reaching agreement on the incorporation of UNITA personnel into the joint armed forces. I strongly recommend that the military talks be concluded by mid-May, and my Special Representative is being instructed to offer his good offices in order to achieve this goal. The Government should finalize all practical arrangements to induct UNITA elements into FAA and the national police, as well as to complete the withdrawal of its forces to barracks. I call on the international community to contribute generously to the important programmes established to assist in the demobilization and social integration of ex-combatants.

35. Another area where both parties have to give evidence of a serious commitment to move the peace process forward is the formation of the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation which is supposed to take place by mid-July 1996. Before then, UNITA deputies must take their places in the National Assembly and designated UNITA officials must join the State administration at various levels. All issues related to the post of Vice-President offered to Mr. Savimbi must also be expeditiously resolved.

36. Because of this unsatisfactory state of affairs, I recommend that the mandate of UNAVEM III be extended for a period of two months only, until 8 July 1996.

37. In conclusion, I should like to pay tribute to my Special Representative and to all staff of UNAVEM III, as well as to the personnel of United Nations programmes and agencies and NGOs, for their commendable work under extremely difficult, and often dangerous, conditions. I also wish to express my gratitude to all Member States for their consistent support to the peace process in Angola.

Annex

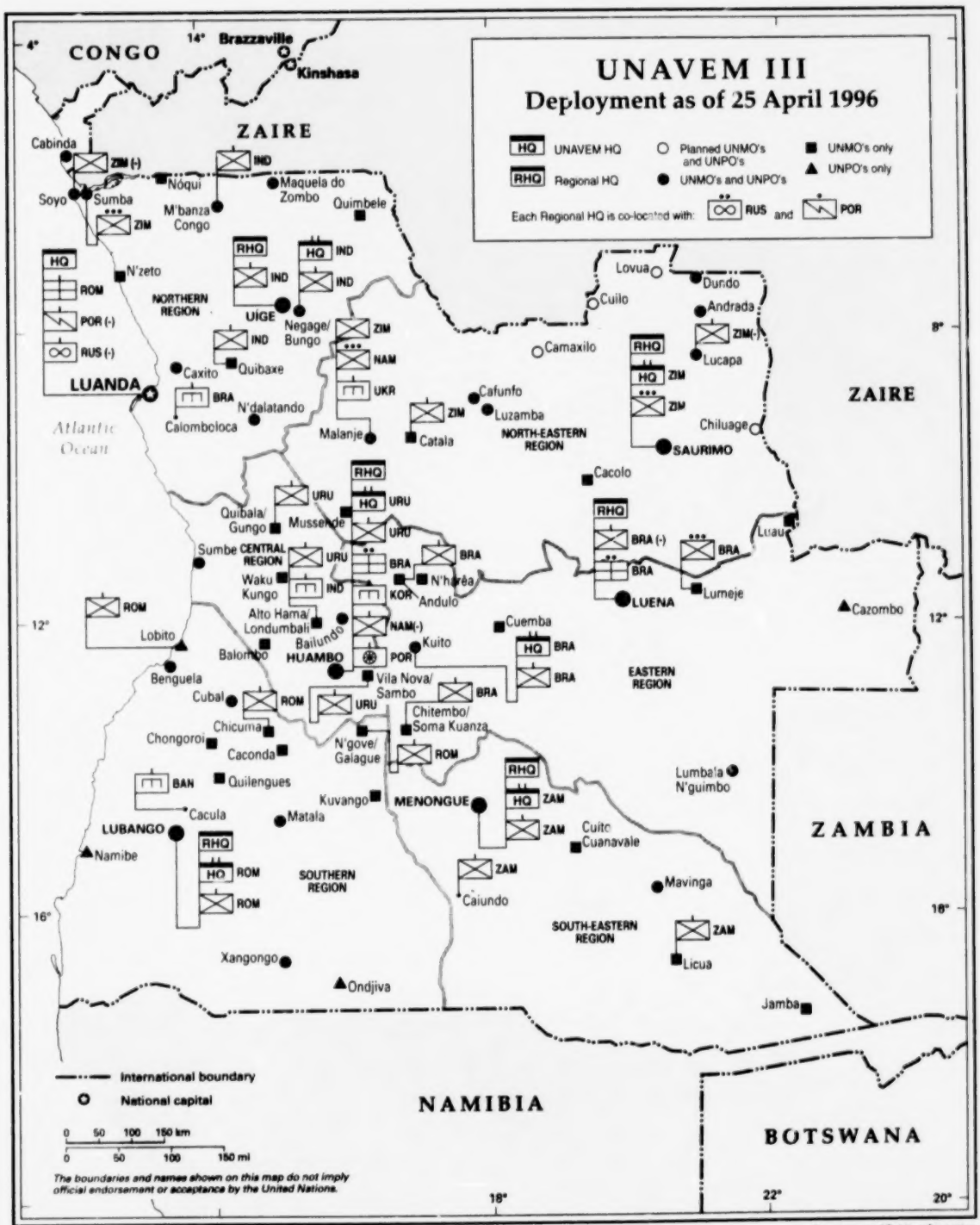
Military and civilian police personnel (as of 25 April 1996)

Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Staff officers	Troops b/	Total
Algeria	8	--	--	--	8
Bangladesh	10	21	11	210	252
Brazil	20	9	39	1 040	1 108
Bulgaria	9	15	--	--	24
Congo	8	--	--	--	8
Egypt	10	15	1 a/		26
Fiji	--	2	--	--	2
France	8	--	12 a/	--	20
Guinea-Bissau	12	4	--	--	16
Hungary	10	8	--	--	18
India	19	3	47	1 023	1 092
Italy	--	--	4 a/	--	4
Jordan	20	21	1 a/	--	42
Kenya	10	--	--	--	10
Malaysia	20	20	2 a/	--	42
Mali	10	15	--	--	25
Namibia	--	--	6	203	209
Netherlands	15	8	15 a/	--	38
New Zealand	5	--	9 a/	--	14
Nigeria	21	20	--	--	41
Norway	5	--	--	--	5
Pakistan	10	--	8 a/	--	18
Poland	5	--	--	--	5
Portugal	9	11	11	316	347
Republic of Korea	--	--	6	198	204
Romania	--	--	22	870	892

Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Staff officers	Troops b/	Total
Russian Federation	10	--	--	167	177
Senegal	10	--	--	--	10
Slovakia	5	--	--	--	5
Sweden	20	10	--	--	30
Ukraine	5	--	8	202	215
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	--	--	4	--	4
United Republic of Tanzania	--	3	--	--	3
Uruguay	10	12	32	808	862
Zambia	10	15	12	499	536
Zimbabwe	22	22	33	811	888
Total	336	234	283	6 347	7 200

a/ Including military specialists in the UNAVEM III demining school and quartering area administration.

b/ Including military police.



Map No. 3881 Rev. 11 UNITED NATIONS
April 1996

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